

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An electrode comprising an intermetallic lithium/transition metal pnictide phase, wherein the ~~transition metal present in said~~ lithium/transition metal pnictide phase is depicted by formula (I):



wherein:

- M represents a metal of one of the columns IVa and Va of the periodic table of the elements;

- Pn represents a pnictogene element selected in the group consisting of ~~N~~, P, As, and Sb;

- x represents a number between 2.0 and 11.0; and

- y represents a number between 0.2 and 2.2.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) An electrode according to claim 1, wherein, in formula (I), M represents a metal of the group consisting of Ti, V, Nb and Ta.

4. (Currently Amended) An electrode according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein, in formula (I), y represents a number between 0.4 and 2.1.

5. (Currently Amended) An electrode according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein, in formula (I), y represents a number between 0.7 and 1.3.

6.-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An electrochemical cell comprising a negative electrode, an electrolyte and a positive electrode, the negative electrode ~~corresponding to~~ including a material containing an intermetallic lithium/transition metal pnictide phase which is depicted by formula (I):



wherein:

- M represents a metal of one of the columns IVa and Va of the periodic chart of the elements;
- Pn represents a pnictogene element, that is ~~N, P, or As~~ P or As;
- x represents a number between 2.0 and 11.0; and
- y represents a number between 0.2 and 2.2.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) An electrochemical cell according to claim ~~47~~ 16, wherein, in formula (I), M represents a metal of the group consisting of Ti, V, Nb and Ta.

19. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium-ion battery which comprises a plurality of cells, electrically connected, each cell comprising a negative electrode, an electrolyte and a positive electrode, the negative electrode corresponding to a material containing an intermetallic lithium/transition metal pnictide phase is depicted by formula (I):



wherein:

- M represents a metal of one of the columns IVa and Va of the periodic chart of the elements;
- Pn represents a pnictogene element, that is ~~N, P, or As~~ P or As;
- x represents a number between 2.0 and 11.0; and
- y represents a number between 0.2 and 2.2.

Claim 20 (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim ~~20~~ 19, wherein, in formula (I), M represents a metal of the group consisting of Ti, V, Nb and Ta.

22. (New) An electrode according to claim 1, wherein the pnictogene element is P.

23. (New) An electrode according to claim 1, wherein the pnictogene element is As.